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SOUTHERN STAR
MYSURU

Committed to End Excel Plant Stench: MP

- Mountains of legacy waste accumulated for 30 years to make way for greener pastures
- Project in tender stage; to be accomplished under PM Modi's Swachh Bharat Mission

File photo of Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha spraying a chemical solution on to the garbage heaps piled up at Sewage Farm in Vidyaranyapuram on Jan. 7, 2018. This chemical spray was meant to prevent foul smell emanating from garbage heaps.

Mysuru, May 9 (MTY&BCT)- Bringing some good news to over 50,000 residents living around the Solid Waste Management Unit (Excel Plant) at Sewage Farm premises in Vidyaranyapuram who are suffering from the foul smell emanating from more than two lakh tonnes of legacy waste piled up at the unit, Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha has stated that the Karnataka Government was committed to clear the waste from the place at any cost.

Interacting with reporters at Suttur Mutt yesterday where Simha was questioned about a reported argument that took place between him and Krishnaraja MLA S.A. Ramdas over Excel Plant issue at a meeting chaired by Urban Development Minister B.A. Basavaraj (Byrathi Basavaraj) and Mysuru District Minister S.T. Somashekar at Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) on May 7, the MP clarified that it was not an argument but a a healthy discussion on the plight faced by the residents due to unbearable stench.

Life in the surroundings of Excel Solid Waste Management Plant has become nightmarish for thousands of residents with unbearable stench emanating out of the plant 24×7 and 365 days. Residents of Vidyaranyapuram, Kanakagiri, J.P. Nagar, Gundu Rao Nagar and Vishweshwaranagar have been in vain demanding the relocation of the plant for years.

(See Excel Plant on page 2)

Only 5 active cases in Mysuru; 85 cured

Mysuru, May 9- Mysuru, which had become a major cluster and is a Red Zone district that had reported 90 cases, did not record any new case of COVID-19 in the last one week. Two more patients were discharged from the designated COVID-19 Hospital on KRS Road yesterday and the number has declined to five.

P-319 and P-497 were discharged yesterday and the positive cases have come down to 85 from 90.

According to Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar, the Health Department authorities have observed a total of 4,907 persons and have tested 4,966 samples. Out of them, 4,876 samples tested negative and 90 tested positive for COVID-19.

However, 4,756 persons have successfully completed 14 days of home quarantine and another 145 inter-State travellers are at present under quarantine facility. These travellers came to Mysuru after the inter-State commuting was permitted. They were screened at check-posts set up at entry points to the district.

Ring of Light

42-km Outer Ring Road glows, again

Mysuru, May 9 (RK & BCT)- Hundreds of night commuters along the Outer Ring Road — a 42-kilometre long carriageway — can now heave a sigh of relief as streetlights along the road have been switched on after a long gap.

The road had plunged into darkness, endangering the safety of people using the motorway and residents of layouts beyond the road.

(See LIGHT on page 6)

STAR PUNCH By Satish Acharya

Stock clearance: Bars, Restaurants, Clubs re-open in Mysuru

Mysuru, May 9 (RK&DM)- Desperate to get rid of old stocks piled up due to the over 40-day lockdown since Mar. 24 midnight to May 4, the Karnataka Government yesterday allowed pubs, bars, clubs, restaurants and lodges across the State to also sell liquor at retail prices from today till May 17.

The Government, however, warned pubs, clubs, bars and restaurants that their licences would be cancelled in case they were caught serving liquor or beer on their premises to the customers.

Following the order, all the bars, pubs and restaurants in Mysuru opened this morning to sell their existing stock of liquor at MRP. The order has been passed, converting pubs, bars, clubs, restaurants and lodges in non-COVID areas into temporary retail outlets to sell all brands of Indian-Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) and beer till May 17 but not serve.

The order is applicable to standalone CL-4 (clubs), CL-7 (hotels and lodges) and CL-9 (bars and restaurants) outlets. These outlets are also required to fulfil a set of conditions which chiefly included sale of only sealed bottles, maintenance of social distancing and sale of liquor only at MRP.

The order also allowed transporting of liquor stocks from these stores to CL-2 (MRP) outlets, which were earlier allowed to sell liquor from May 4. However, bars, restaurants and clubs are barred from procuring fresh liquor from State-owned Karnataka State Beverages Corporation Ltd., during this period.

Though liquor sales have been soaring by the day since retail shops were allowed to re-open from May 4, huge stocks remained unsold or un-cleared in pubs, clubs, bars, restaurants and hotels, as they were not allowed to re-open due to the lockdown extended till May 17.

"With pubs, clubs, bar and restaurants also selling liquor, long queues at retail shops due to huge demand and social distancing will reduce, as customers will be able to buy their favourite drinks in their nearest pub, club, bar or lodge," officials said. The order will also allow pubs, bars, clubs and hotels to get rid of beer stocks, which have only six-month shelf life.

Mysuru Excise Deputy Commissioner K.S. Murali told 'Star of Mysore' this morning that there are a total of 300 CL-4, CL-7 and CL-9 licensed liquor vending outlets in the district, including 138 in Mysuru city alone. "We have formed Mobile Squads to inspect such premises and to serve notice on cancellation of their licences if they were found serving liquor to customers, besides retailing," he said.

The order directed pubs, clubs, bars and lodges to allow only one customer to enter their respective premises at a time and leave soon after purchasing liquor at the MRP. "They (pubs, clubs and bars) should also ensure customers stand 1-2 feet apart in queues and wear masks. The customers are not allowed to drink liquor on their premises," he added.

Committed to End Excel Plant stench

(Continued from page 1)

Untold misery to people

"The areas within a radius of 5 km from the Plant that have schools, apartment housing complexes and commercial areas are badly affected and it risked the health of thousands of people. Residents cannot even open windows of their houses due to the foul smell. Locals suffer from nausea, headache and sleepless nights. Many people have fainted as they could not bear the smell," Pratap Simha said.

The Excel Treatment Plant was set up under JnNURM Project in 1996. Nearly 500 tonnes of solid waste is treated at the Sewage Farm to produce compost. However, lakhs of tonnes of garbage go untreated, given that the city produces nearly 450-500 tonnes of waste daily. Residents say that the animal carcass and other waste from slaughterhouses were dumped directly into the plant, leading to unbearable stench.

Zigma expertise

"This waste has been accumulated here since the past 30 years and many Ministers and elected representatives have been unable to solve the problem despite many assurances. Soon after last Dasara, at my insistence, the then District Minister V. Somanna expressed willingness to get the garbage cleared. I personally took interest and identified Zigma Global Environ Solutions, a private solid waste management services company that carried out bio-mining of 8 lakh tonnes of legacy waste spread across 50 acres in Nagpur," Simha explained.

"The bio-mining procedure involves segregation of waste into organic and inorganic. While organic waste, which can be decomposed, is used as an earth fill, the other is used for purposes such as fuel for cement factories. Zigma has done such work in Indore, Vadodara, Nagpur, Noida, Tiruchirappalli, Chidambaram and a few more places. It is a tried, tested and trusted method," he said.

MCC sources added that over 25 acres of Government land can be reclaimed after the legacy waste is cleared from the waste treatment plant.

Tour to Nagpur

Somanna then took all the elected representatives into confidence and sent a team of Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar, the then Mayor Pushpalatha Jagannath, Deputy Mayor Shafi Ahmed, MCC Gurudatta Hegde, Chairperson of MCC Standing Committee on Health and the civic body's Health Officer to Nagpur and the team submitted a report, Simha revealed. He added that Zigma representatives too had visited the waste plant to assess the situation and had submitted an assessment report.

Based on the report, the Urban Development Ministry assessed Zigma and its capacities and approved the project. "Minister Somanna took keen interest to get rid of the problem and a Detailed Project Report (DPR) was made and approved. Now the project is in tender stage and instead of a single tender, the Urban Development Ministry has divided it into three parts – bio-remediation, transportation and disposal," the MP explained.

Modi's Swachh Bharat Mission

"Now since Byrathi Basavaraj is the Urban Development Minister and Somashekar is the Mysuru District Minister, I requested Basavaraj that instead of splitting the tender, it can be made a single tender so that there will be global participation with much more efficiency and accountability. Basavaraj has promised Mysureans that he will look into it and make way for tenders," he said.

The MP added that as all the process has been completed and the project is in the tender stage, it makes no sense to start the project all over again. "Those who are opposing the project have sat quiet for 25 years and we will have to work in public interest. I cannot comment on people who are creating confusion. Let any company come forward to handle the waste," he said.

To a question, Pratap Simha said that under the leadership of CM B.S. Yediyurappa, the legacy waste mountain will be cleared. "People have elected us and they have reposed trust in us. We are determined to clear waste and it is a part of PM Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat Mission," he added.

Public opinion must be sought before implementing project: MLA

Mysuru, May 9 (MTY&BCT)- Krishnaraja MLA S.A. Ramdas has said that before the waste is cleared from the Solid Waste Management Unit (Excel Plant) in Vidyaranyapuram under any project, public opinion must be sought.

Ramdas

"I have been fighting for this issue for many years and I have not indulged in a verbal spat with anyone but have brought to light the problem faced by the people in front of Urban Development Minister B.A. Basavaraj and Mysuru District Minister S.T. Somashekar. I have booked cases against Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) and Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) in Green Tribunals regarding the issue," he said.

The MCC had even filed an affidavit in the Tribunals saying that the waste issue will be solved. "People of Mysuru have seen my work on this front and I am the MLA representing the Constituency under which comes the Excel Plant but I was not informed about the visit of Mysuru DC and MCC team to Zigma Plant in Nagpur. Public opinion must be sought if the waste disposal is carried out under any new project," he said, making no bones about his displeasure.

"To mitigate the waste collection in Vidyaranyapuram, 110 acres of land has been purchased in Rayanakere and 7.5 lakh tonnes have been filled to the land and 5,000 saplings have been planted. Rs. 85 lakh has been spent on covering the mounds of waste. Still, waste continues to pour in to Vidyaranyapuram plant and I have staged protest regarding the issue," he added.

VOICE OF THE READER

Collection of Municipal Tax: Some suggestions to MCC

Sir,

The Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) and the Government is starved of tax revenue. It should devise a simple mode for citizens to pay their house tax dues. The best mode would be through online banking. For the present, it could follow this simple procedure.

Instead of citizens waiting to fill the Self-Assessment Forms (SAFs) under the scorching sun, it should accept xerox copy of last year's SAF along with payment (assuming no large variation in parameters). They can directly pay through bank windows at MCC and their bank branches. This would, I presume, cover more than 90% of assessees.

MCC could easily garner large revenue as citizens (particularly seniors) would be spared of the agony of standing in queue twice. If there is any large variation, MCC can ask for rectification later.

MCC can also ask their Revenue Inspectors to accept payments at the doorstep of willing citizens.

I hope the Commissioner, MCC, will take note of this simple solution and direct all the Zonal Offices to implement it. A helpline number of Zonal Office for tax payment should be set up and publicised.

— H.G. Subramanya

Mysuru
8.5.2020

Pending CBSE Class 10 & 12 exams to be held from July 1

New Delhi, May 9- Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank announced here on Friday that CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education) exams for the remaining papers of Class 10 and Class 12 will be held from July 1 to 15.

Class 10 exams were pending only in North-East Delhi, where the exams had to be postponed on account of the riots that broke out in the last week of February.

For Class 12, the examination would be held for 12 subjects in the entire country and 11 subjects in North-East Delhi. Among the subjects for which exams for Class 12 are to be conducted across India are Business Studies, Geography, Computer Science, Hindi, Home Science, Sociology, Information Practice (old and new), Information Technology and Bio-technology.

Zoo animal adoption continues

Mysuru, May 9- N. Ramakrishnaiah, Mysuru, has adopted Giraffe from Mysuru Zoo under its Animal Adoption Scheme, for one year from May 4, 2020 to May 3, 2021, by paying the adoption fee of Rs.1,00,000.

K.S. Naveen, Personal Secretary of Co-operation Minister, Government of Karnataka, has adopted Zebra by paying the adoption fee of Rs.50,000. Also, D. Sumana, Mysuru, has adopted Zebra by paying Rs. 50,000.

Obituary

Shivaswamy

Mysuru, May 9- Madivalara Shivaswamy (70), a retired employee of Marimallappa Educational Institutions and a resident of Ramakrishna Nagar E and F Block, passed away yesterday. He leaves behind his wife, a son, a daughter, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at the Burial Grounds on Adichunchanagiri Road here yesterday.

B. Basavaraju

B. Basavaraju, a retd. CHESCom official and a resident of J.P. Nagar passed, away on Thursday following a heart attack. He leaves behind his wife, a son, two daughters and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill the same day.

Suttur Mutt donates Rs.5 lakh to Zoo

Mysuru, May 9- As Mysuru Zoo is closed for public due to COVID-19 lockdown, Suttur Mutt and JSS Mahavidyapeetha donated Rs.5 lakh towards maintenance of animals and birds at the Zoo. The cheque was handed over by Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji to Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK) Member-Secretary B.P. Ravi and Zoo Executive Director Ajit M. Kulkarni through Ministers Jagadish Shettar and S.T. Somashekar, at the Mysuru Branch of Suttur Mutt, foot of Chamundi Hill on Friday.

MP Pratap Simha, MLAs S.A. Ramdas, G.T. Devegowda and B. Harshavardhan, former MLAs A.H. Vishwanath and M.K. Somashekar, Mayor Tasneem, Dy. Mayor Sridhar, JSS Mahavidyapeetha Executive Secretary Dr. C.G. Betsurmath, S.P. Manjunath, S. Shivakumaraswamy and others were present.

It may be mentioned here that the Mutt has been donating Rs.1 lakh to Zoo every year to feed the denizens for a day, on the occasion of Jagadguru Sri Shivarathri Rajendra Mahaswamiji Jayanti on Aug.29.

Donation to CM Fund: JSS Mahavidyapeetha Govt. Employees House Building Co-operative Society donated Rs.2.5 lakh towards CM's COVID-19 Relief Fund. The cheque was handed over by Society President S. Puttarajappa and Directors Nanjundaswamy, S. Nandish and J.C. Rajanna in the presence of Ministers Jagadish Shettar, S.T. Somashekar, Byrathi Basavaraj, MP Pratap Simha and MLA S.A. Ramdas.

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LISA's First Step Montessori distributes Essential Kits to 100 tribal families

The management of LISA's (Leelambike Sadananda's) First Step Montessori School, Srirampura 2nd stage, BEML Layout, has distributed the Essential Kits to around 100 tribal families who are dwelling near the forest areas of Saragur in H.D. Kote taluk of Mysuru under the guidance of Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM) and NJS Charitable Trust on May 5. Rajarajeshwari, Principal and Managing Trustee of the School, distributed the Kits to the tribal families living in Aanegatti and Ramehalli in Saragur taluk, on behalf of all the parents and well-wishers.

Pandavapura Sugar Factory all set for a fresh start

Pandavapura, May 9 (Nagaiah)- The Pandavapura Sahakara Sakkare Karkhane (PSSK) at Pandavapura in Mandya district, popularly known as Pandavapura Sugar Factory and considered as the lifeline of many sugarcane growers in this part of the district, is all set for a renewed start soon, with the Government likely to complete the tender process by May 13.

The factory, which started in the co-operative sector decades ago, was shut years ago due to mounting losses, following which the Government invited private parties to run the factory. Later Kothari Sugars came forward to run the factory, but could not manage to run it for long and subsequently the factory was closed again. But now the Government's move to restart the factory has gained fresh traction with the invitation of tenders for letting out the factory on lease for a 40-year period.

More than 10 private players, including Kothari Sugars, have bid for the tender and the successful bidder will be known only when the Government opens all the received tenders, which is likely to happen shortly.

The successful bidder may be allowed to start Power Co-generation and Distillery Units in the factory as an economic viability.

The factory currently has a crushing capacity of 3,500 Metric Tons per day and the successful bidder may have to raise it to 5,000 tons per day for economic viability, as per the tender norms.

The Government had invited tenders following a resolution passed at a meeting of all stakeholders at the Mandya Deputy Commissioner's office on Mar.1, 2019, which was presided over by the then DC Manjushree.

The Government had set certain terms and conditions in the tender which included payment of pending wages to employees, bearing the cost of modernisation, generation of 12 Mega watt of power and protection of employee interests, among others. Now that the deadline for submission of tenders having ended, all eyes are on the Government as all the process involved in the scrutiny of tenders is likely to complete by May 13.

Mandya DC asks factories to pay pending dues to farmers

Meanwhile, Mandya Deputy Commissioner Dr. M.V. Venkatesh has said that all sugar factories in the district have to clear sugarcane dues to farmers by May 15.

Presiding over a meeting with farmers to discuss the start of sugarcane crushing season, Dr. Venkatesh said that ICL Sugars in K.R. Pet has to pay Rs.13.46 crore, NSL Sugars in Koppa Rs.31.34 crore, Sri Chamundeshwari Sugars in K.M.Doddi Rs. 33.53 crore, Bannari Amman Sugars in Nanjangud Taluk Rs.3.33 crore and Kunthur Sugar factory in Kollegal Taluk a few crore rupees as dues to the farmers who supplied sugarcane to these factories. Instructing the factories to clear all farmer dues by May 15, the DC said that the scrutiny of tender process of Pandavapura Sugar factory is almost complete. The factory, after getting started, can crush more than 8 lakh tons of sugarcane every year, he added.

JK Tyre partially resumes operations in India

Commences production at three manufacturing facilities in Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand; Raghupati Singhania Centre of Excellence, Mysuru

Mysuru, May 9- Indian tyre industry major and the pioneer of radial tyre technology in the country, JK Tyre & Industries Ltd., yesterday announced partial resumption of operations after adhering to the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India and permissions granted by the respective State Governments and local authorities.

JK Tyre has commenced production in a graded manner at its manufacturing facilities in Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Kankroli (Rajasthan) and Laksar (through Cavendish industries Ltd.-- subsidiary company, in Uttarakhand).

The Company has also resumed operations at its global Research & Development hub, Raghupati Singhania Centre of Excellence, Mysuru, Karnataka.

The remaining manufacturing plants of JK Tyre in India and Mexico are in preparatory mode and will resume operations subsequently.

All the facilities will function with restricted manpower and stringent precautionary measures to ensure safety, sanitisation and social distancing.

Only the essential staff will be allowed to the listed facilities and the remaining employees across corporate office, sales offices and other plants will continue to work from home until further notice.

JK Tyre has kept the safety and well-being of its employees at the core of its resumption roadmap. The Company has prepared a detailed 'SOP Manual' that has been shared with the employees and supply chain partners much before the commencement of operations.

Speaking on the resumption, Dr. Raghupati Singhania, Chairman and MD, JK Tyre & Industries Ltd., said, "As a nation, we are passing through a challenging phase, yet it is imperative that we take small, but significant steps in our endeavour to achieve the right balance again. While we recommence our manufacturing operations, we are placing the safety and well-being of our employees and communities, which are the prime importance of our resumption plan. We have worked out a thorough and stringent roadmap that is not only aligned with the protocols of the authorities, but goes a step further in ensuring access to safe workplace. We are optimistic that the economy and business ecosystem will gradually proceed towards recovery in the coming months."

DL tests begin in Green Zone districts

Aspirants in Mysuru have to wait longer as District is in Red Zone

Mysuru, May 9- Here is good news for Driving License (DL) aspirants, who are facing uncertainty following the nationwide COVID-19 lockdown.

The driving tests, which were abruptly stopped after the announcement of nationwide lockdown in March, have resumed from May 7 in all the 14 Green Zone districts of the State, which include Chamarajanagar, Kodagu and Hassan, among others. However, there will be no resumption of tests for now in Mysuru as the district has been declared COVID-19 Red Zone.

The tests are being conducted for issuance of DL and LLR. Candidates who had applied before the lockdown will be given first priority. Only those candidates who have received a message on their cell phone from the respective RTO, can appear for the test on the assigned date.

All candidates are compulsorily required to wear face masks and maintain social distancing. Also use of hand sanitisers and undergoing thermal screening is mandatory before taking the test.

Chamarajanagar Congress contributes Rs.10 lakh for KPCC COVID Fund

Chamarajanagar, May 9- The Chamarajanagar District Congress on Wednesday donated Rs.10 lakh to KPCC (Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee) COVID-19 fund.

The District Task Force Committee headed by former MP R. Dhruvanarayan handed over a cheque for Rs.10 lakh to KPCC President D.K. Shivakumar at the latter's Sadashivanagar residence in Bengaluru. The Chamarajanagar District Congress had collected the amount from party legislators, former MLAs, local bodies members and other party leaders.

MLAs Puttarangashetty and R. Narendra, District Congress President P. Mariswamy, former MP Kagalawadi Shivanna, former MLA S. Balaraj and others were present.

Deadline extended

Mysuru, May 9- In view of COVID-19 lockdown, the Kannada Book Authority (KBA) has extended the deadline for submitting applications by authors to seek subsidy for their debut Kannada literary works of all forms (poetry, prose, stories, novels, plays etc.) first published in the year 2019, to May 30, 2020.

For more details, visit Kannada Book Authority, First Floor, Kannada Bhavan, J.C. Road, Bengaluru-2 or call Ph: 080-22484516 or 22107704, according to KBA Administrative Officer K.B. Kiran Singh.

'Ban liquor sales till lockdown ends'

KPCC Women's Wing President Dr. Pushpa Amarnath addressing a press meet at City Congress Office this noon as others look on.

- KPCC Women's Wing to file PIL on Monday
- Wearing black face masks and holding placards, they stage symbolic protest

Mysuru, May 9 (MTY&KS)- The Women's Wing of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) has sought a ban on liquor sales till the lockdown ends.

Addressing a press meet at Congress Office near City Railway Station this noon, KPCC Women's Wing President Dr. Pushpa Amarnath said that she will be filing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Court in this regard on Monday.

Though COVID-19 cases was increasing day-by-day in the State, the State Government has permitted the sale of liquor just to fill the State Treasury, she said and added that customers at many liquor shops were not maintaining social distance and questioned whether the virus would not affect them.

Stating that the State Government has also given permission for sale of liquor at bars, restaurants and pubs, Dr. Pushpa Amarnath said that it would have a very bad impact on middle class and poor families who are already suffering without jobs.

Allowing liquor sales would only worsen the families who are now taking loans to buy groceries and other essential commodities, she said. The male members of such families would now indulge in pledging the gold ornaments of their family to purchase liquor which would lead to further disturbances in many families, she observed.

The Congress women members expressed their displeasure by wearing black face masks and also staged a symbolic protest by holding placards outside the Congress Office.

City Congress Women's Wing President Pushpalatha T.B. Chikkanna, Rural President Latha Siddashetty, former Mayor Pushpalatha Jagannath, former Deputy Mayor Pushpavalli and others were present at the press meet. City Congress President R. Murthy, former Mayor T.B. Chikkanna, Congress leader Raju and others took part in the symbolic protest.

Women Congress leaders led by KPCC Women's Wing President Dr. Pushpa Amarnath staging a symbolic protest outside the Congress Office this noon. City Congress President R. Murthy, former Mayor T.B. Chikkanna, Congress leader Raju and others joined them.

Make Jubilant Co. investigation report by IAS Officer public: Former MP

Dhruvanarayan accuses BJP leaders in Delhi of supporting the Company

Former MP R. Dhruvanarayan addressing the press meet at Jaladarshini Guest House here this morning as former MyLAC Chairman H.A. Venkatesh, City Congress President R. Murthy and former Corporator Shivanna look on.

Mysuru, May 9 (PM&KS)- Former Chamarajanagar MP R. Dhruvanarayan has accused BJP leaders in Delhi for supporting Jubilant Company at Nanjangud and has demanded that the investigation report submitted to the State Government by Special Officer Harsha Gupta be made public. Addressing a press meet at Jaladarshini Guest House on Hunsur Road here this morning, the former MP said that out of 90 positive COVID-19 cases in Mysuru district, 79 positive cases were from Jubilant Company alone.

Continuing, Dhruvanarayan said that the State Government had appointed IAS Officer Harsha Gupta as the Special Officer to investigate the source of Coronavirus in the company and the Special Officer has submitted his report to the Government which should be made public.

Pointing out that many Ministers, who visited the company in Nanjangud, were giving different statements, Dhruvanarayan alleged that Medical Education Minister Dr. K. Sudhakar had stated in a national TV channel that the first patient (P-52) from Jubilant Company had gone to China and had returned, but P-52 has stated that he had never gone to any country and he does not even have a passport. Despite this, Dr. Sudhakar has not taken back his statement, Dhruvanarayan said.

District Minister S.T. Somashekar has stated that the Jubilant Company investigation is going on, when the Special Officer has already submitted a report to the State Government, the former MP observed and rued that Special Officer Harsha Gupta did not get cooperation from Jubilant officials during the investigation.

Stating that Large and Medium Scale Industries Minister Jagadish Shettar was also giving different statements on Jubilant Company, Dhruvanarayan said that Nanjangud MLA B. Harshavardhan had stated that though BJP Governments were ruling both Centre and State, the investigation into the source of Coronavirus at Jubilant Company was not conducted properly, which was causing tension and anxiety among the public.

Pointing out that four persons had lost their lives following gas leakage at Jubilant in 2002 and 15 cows had died after drinking polluted water that was let out by the company in 2004-05, the former MP said that though such incidents had taken place, BJP leaders in Delhi were supporting the company and added that the source of Coronavirus in the company has remained a mystery. When media persons asked that former MP whether prevention and control of COVID-19 is the need of the hour or finding the source of the virus in the company, the former MP asked then why was a Special Officer appointed.

The former MP alleged that while many organisations and companies donated equal money to PM CARES Fund and Chief Minister's COVID-19 Relief Fund, Jubilant Company has donated Rs. 25 lakh to CM's COVID-19 Relief Fund and Rs. 10 crore to PM CARES Fund and questioned why the company donated different amount to both the funds.

Alleging that the Centre and the State Governments were not taking proper care of migrants, Dhruvanarayan said that the enthusiasm shown to bring back Indians from abroad was not the same when it came to sending back migrants to their native places.

CFTRI's Webinar to mark National Technology Day on May 11

Mysuru, May 9- The Mysuru-based CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) is celebrating the National Technology Day differently by organising a Webinar. The Webinar is being organised in association with Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM), Mysuru, and will be online on May 11 at 11 am.

Dr. R. Balasubramaniam, Founder, SVYM, will be delivering a lecture on 'What do Villages Expect from Food Scientists?,' following which there will be an interaction with the listeners.

Dr. K.S.M.S. Raghavarao, Director, CFTRI and Dr. R. Subramanian, Chief Scientist, CFTRI, will also be present.

Those who are interested may download Zoom app on their phone and join the Webinar by typing the Zoom Webinar ID: 996 6990 3688 and Password: 162163. For details, contact Sharma on Mob: 98866-40328, according to a press release from A.S.K.V.S. Sharma, Coordinator, Information & Publicity, CFTRI.

Checkmate COVID Chess Tournament
raises Rs.15 lakh with over 19,000 players

All proceeds donated to Karnataka CM's COVID Relief Fund

Mysuru, May 9- The Checkmate COVID Chess Tournament, conducted by the Government of Karnataka, along with the United Karnataka Chess Association (UKCA) and Mobile Premier League (MPL), raised Rs.15 lakh in proceeds that were donated to Karnataka CM's COVID Relief Fund. A total of 19,245 players registered for the Tournament, which had a total prize pool of Rs.10 lakh.

Chess Grand Master (GM) Ankit Rajpara won the Tournament, which was held on May 2 and 3 on the MPL app. He was awarded Rs.1 lakh. GM Bhakti Kulkarni won the award for the top-ranked female player and Shakuntala Devi won the award for top-ranked player above 60 years of age (Rs.25,000 each, respectively).

The Tournament saw a total of 2.37 lakh chess games played on the MPL app. All players ranking up to 10,000 on the Tournament leader board were awarded cash prizes from the total prize pool.

The matches were played in the Speed Chess format, with each player getting three minutes in the game. Winners were decided on the basis of maximum such games won over the two-day duration of the tournament.

"I thank all the players who participated and contributed to the Checkmate COVID Chess Tournament. We are glad to have collected a large amount for the CM's COVID Relief Fund. Congratulations to the winners and to everyone else for making this tournament successful. We must continue to come together and fight this crisis," said C.T. Ravi, Minister for Youth Empowerment and Sports, Government of Karnataka.

"We are grateful to our users for supporting this noble cause by participating in the tournament in such huge numbers and we thank the Government of Karnataka for giving us this opportunity to help in the fight against COVID-19," said Sai Srinivas, Co-Founder and CEO, MPL.

"It was great to participate in the Checkmate COVID Tournament on MPL. Playing Chess is my passion and if I can also contribute to a good cause at the same time, nothing like it," said Tournament winner GM Ankit Rajpara.

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email: contact@jssamch.org | website: www.jssamch.org
Approved by CGHS and State Government

Ring of Light

(Continued from page 1)

Lights were switched on for last Dasara following the intervention of the then Mysuru District Minister V. Somanna who took the issue to Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa. But just days after Dasara, the lights were switched off as the electricity bills were not paid.

Now the lights are on again following the intervention of Urban Development Minister B.A. Basavaraj and Mysuru District Minister S.T. Somashekar. At a meeting held with Mysuru Urban Development Authority on May 7, the issue was discussed and the Ministers were told that a bill of Rs. 1.5 crore to Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) was pending.

The Minister was told that there were two reasons for the Ring Road going dark. The first issue was the non-payment of electricity bill to CESC by MUDA. The second was the ambiguity as to who should maintain, operate and pay for the streetlights – MCC, MUDA or the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) as the six-lane Outer Ring Road has already been hand over to NHAI by MUDA. With no clarity on the issue and passing the buck act, the problem continued, the Ministers were told.

Hearing the officials, Minister Basavaraj asked the MUDA and MCC to share the responsibility of maintaining the streetlights and payment of bills.

Speaking to 'Star of Mysore' this morning, MUDA Assistant Executive Engineer (Electricals), Raghavendra said that the Minister had directed MUDA to foot the present outstanding bill of Rs. 1.5 crore.

Till the Government takes a decision on who should foot the bill, the MCC and MUDA have to maintain the lights. Also, keeping in mind that the NHAI does not have budgetary provisions to maintain the streetlights, a decision has to be taken by the Government after looking at how the system is followed in other States.

"Till then, the MCC and MUDA have to share the responsibility. Both MUDA and MCC come under the Urban Development Department and the Government has to take a call," Raghavendra said.

The 42-kilometre long carriageway has 2,135 electric poles and each pole has two metal-halide lamps. This means, MUDA and MCC have to foot the bills and maintain over 4,270 bulbs. Altogether, the monthly expenditure comes up to Rs. 18 lakh. Over 1,136 electricity poles of the total 2,135 come under MUDA while the rest come under the jurisdiction of MCC and Zilla Panchayat.

CET to be held
after SSLC exams
Telecast of revision classes for SSLC English medium students begins in Chandana Channel

Bengaluru, May 9- The Common Entrance Test (CET)-2020 for admission to technical and other professional courses (barring medical and dental courses) in the State will take place after the SSLC exams get over.

In a press statement issued here yesterday, **Primary and Secondary Education Minister S. Suresh Kumar** said that SSLC exams are most likely to happen next month following which the CET-2020 will take place.

Pointing out that the revision classes for SSLC English medium students will be telecast in Doordarshan's Chandana Channel starting from today (May 9), he said that the telecast of revision classes for SSLC Kannada medium students which started on April 29 has been a huge success with students gaining most from it.

The class is of 30-day duration, with the first 16 days reserved for Maths and Science subjects and the next 10 days for Social Science, he said and added that the time-schedule and curriculum for the next academic year (2020-21) will be decided after consulting experts and educationists.

TEACHERS WANTED
For Wisdom school, Nanjangud
Requirements are: Math - 2, Science -2, Social Science -2 and English language -2. Candidates must have a BEd, MEd degree or a BSc, MSc degree with good English communication skills. Interested candidates can Contact
7483199670 Online Interviews will be conducted.

COVID-19 District Emergency Control Room

The Mysuru District Emergency Control Room for COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is functional 24x7 and has a team of operators and medical professionals who are working in shifts. All related queries will be handled professionally and necessary guidance will be provided to all callers, according to Mysuru DC.

Mysuru Helpline numbers
1077 or 0821-2423800
Karnataka Helpline number: 104
Central Helpline number:
011-23978046
Email: ncov2019@gmail.com

COVID - 19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	4,907
Persons who have completed 14 days' isolation	:	4,756
Persons isolated in home for 14 days (145 are inter-State travellers)	:	146
Persons isolated in hospital for active cases	:	5
Total samples tested	:	4,966
Samples found negative	:	4,876
Samples found positive (cumulative)	:	90
Persons cured / discharged	:	85
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

MANDYA

Total positive cases in Mandya	:	28
Persons cured / discharged	:	14
Death toll so far in Mandya	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	794
Persons cured / discharged	:	386
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	30
Total active cases in India	:	39,834
Persons cured / discharged	:	17,846
Death toll so far in India	:	1,981

(Note: Some of the figures of Mysuru are as on May 8. Media bulletin for May 9 not available)

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